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10/825,828	04/16/2004	Roberta Lee	MNOAP001DIV	9443
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Jung-hua Kuo			EXAMINER	
Attorney At Law			PEFFLEY, MICHAEL F	
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Los Altos, CA 94024				
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			3739	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,828

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Peffley

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5, 14-16, 18-44, 48, 49, 61, 62 and 65-71 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-13, 17, 45-47 and 50-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 63 and 64 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 April 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

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Applicant's amendments and comments, received March 20, 2007, have been fully considered by the examiner. In particular, the cancellation of claims 72-123 is acknowledged. The following is a complete response to the March 20, 2007 communication.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 18-44, 48, 49, 61, 62 and 65-71 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 26, 2006. Additionally, claim 5 is withdrawn as being directed to the non-elected species of Figure 4, and claims 14-16 are withdrawn as being directed to the non-elected species of Figure 8.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the first sentence of the specification should be amended to provide the most current status (i.e. US Patent Number) for the related application(s).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 1-4, 6-13, 17, 45-47, 50-54, 59 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Munro (5,437,665).

Munro discloses a tissue severing device that comprises a guide (3) comprising to co-linear, co-extensive guide lumens (8, 8') extending through the guide and terminating in distal tips at an angle with respect to the guide axis (Figure 3 and Figure 9). A cutting tool (7) is contained in the guide and forms a cutting loop. There is an extension means (24) that controls the extension of the cutting loop from the guide member, and deployment of the cutting loop also controls the width of the cutting loop. There is a handle (1) at the proximal region of the device, the handle including the extension means and width adjuster (24) which passes therethrough and is attached to a control (13) connected to the extension means. The cutting loop is connected to an RF source and made from an alloy such as titanium (col. 8, lines 60+). The guide lumens (8,8') are connected to each other (see Figure 5) and are provided in a tubular shaft that includes accessory lumens (Figure 12B). Munro also disclose a means (42) to connect the lumens to a suction source and an irrigation source. The distal opening of the shaft is deemed to be the primary window through which the cutting tool extends and retracts.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which

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said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 54-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Munro ('665) in view of the teaching of Maslanka (4,503,855).

The Munro device has been addressed previously. Munro fails to disclose that the shaft member is sharpened to facilitate the penetration of tissue.

Maslanka discloses an analogous extendable wire loop cutting device and specifically teach that it is advantageous to provide the outer sheath member (1) with sharpened tip to facilitate tissue penetration.

To have provided the Munro device with a sharpened tip to facilitate penetration of the device through tissue to the intended site would have been an obvious modification for one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the teaching of Maslanka.

Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Munro ('665) and Maslanka ('855) as applied to claim 57 above, and further in view of the teaching of Rydell (5,085,659).

The combination of the Maslanka teaching with the Munro device has been addressed. Maslanka provides a sharpened tip on the device, but fails to disclose an electrode on the sheath member.

Rydell disclose another tissue cutting and removal device that includes a an electrode deployable from a shaft. In particular, Rydell teach that it is known to provide the sheath member with an electrode such that a bipolar electrode pair is provide for treating tissue.

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To have provided the Munro device, as modified by the teaching of Maslanka, with an electrode on the sheath member to provide for bipolar treatment of tissue would have been an obvious modification for one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the teaching of Rydell.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 63 and 64 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 20, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the Munro device fails to provide a cutting element that is retractable into or extensible from the flat leaf springs of the insulation sheaths as generally recited in amended independent claim 1 (page 12 of applicant's response). However, claim 1 now recites a cutting tool that is "selectively extensible from and retractable into the guide" (emphasis added). There is no recitation of movement relative to a leaf spring or an insulation sheath as suggested by the applicant. The examiner has indicated in the rejection that the cutting tool is clearly extensible from and retractable into the guide (3), and maintains the Munro patent still anticipates the claims as amended.

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Applicant has made no arguments with respect to the obviousness rejections other than to assert that claim 1 is allowable. The examiner thereby maintains the obviousness rejections remain tenable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Peffley whose telephone number is (571) 272-4770. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Michael Peffley/
Primary Examiner
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/mp/
August 14, 2007